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Important Dates to Remember

July 31: Preferred deadline for corrections to state aid eligibility - Protect your eligibility for **Access Missouri** and/or **Bright Flight** funds by making sure all necessary corrections to your eligibility are completed

College Students

- If you receive a letter from the Missouri Department of Higher Education stating we received conflicting information reported on your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2012-2013 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the noted deadlines. Corrections can be made through the online FAFSA correction process at www.fafsa.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: The FAFSA is required to apply for the Access Missouri program; Bright Flight students are NOT required to complete the FAFSA but may choose to do so to apply for need-based aid. If the FAFSA indicates you are no longer an undergraduate student, Missouri resident or U.S. citizen, your Bright Flight eligibility can be affected.

- **July 31, 2012** - the preferred deadline for Access Missouri and Bright Flight. The MDHE cannot guarantee that corrections to Access Missouri eligibility made after July 31 will be received in time to affect your final eligibility.
 - **Oct. 1, 2012** - the deadline for Bright Flight students who took the ACT in June 2012 or missed the July 31 preferred deadline. If you do not provide all necessary information to the MDHE by Oct. 1, you will be considered a late applicant and your award will be subject to funding availability, even if you have previously received an approval letter.
- If you receive the **Bright Flight scholarship**, keep in mind that as a renewal student you must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue receiving the award. The most up-to-date **information regarding award amounts for the 2012-2013 academic year is available on the MDHE's website**. Monitor the website periodically for changes to the award amount, which will be finalized in August.
 - If you're a recent college graduate and borrowed a federal student loan, you have a **six-month grace period** before your first payment is due. Use this time to get prepared for **successful repayment**.

Recent High School Graduates

- If you receive a letter from the Missouri Department of Higher Education stating we received conflicting information reported on your **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** that currently renders you ineligible for **Access Missouri** or **Bright Flight** funds for the 2012-2013 academic year, you must submit necessary corrections by the noted deadlines. Corrections can be made through the online FAFSA correction process at www.fafsa.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: The FAFSA is required to apply for the Access Missouri program; Bright Flight

Monthly Reminders

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- The most up-to-date information about the **Bright Flight award amounts for the 2012-2013 academic year** is available on the MDHE's website. Monitor the website periodically for changes to the award amounts, which will be finalized in August.
- If you take the ACT or SAT this month, the MDHE should receive your score by the end of July or beginning of August (six to eight weeks after you take the test).
- If you've exhausted all other methods of financial aid that do not have to be paid back, keep the following in mind if you decide to take out a student loan:
 - o Borrow only the minimum amount you need to help **keep your debt loads as minimal as possible**.
- Follow up with the financial aid office of the college or school you plan to attend. Make sure all paperwork is complete and the aid office has an updated list of all your awarded grants and scholarships.
- Firm up your plans for freshman orientation or other activities scheduled by your college. These events are a great opportunity to acclimate yourself to your new surroundings and meet new friends.
- Talk to your future roommate(s) to work out a system for making sure your residence hall or apartment has all the necessities. If you think there will be extra expenses involved, discuss a plan to work out the details so no one is burdened by surprise costs.

High School and Middle School Students

- Make a plan for saving a portion of the money you earn at summer jobs. To see how money in your savings account can add up over time, check out this **savings calculator**.

Monthly Reminders

- Stay active and involved in extracurricular activities. Summer is also a great time to join community organizations.
- Check out the MDHE's *Journey to College* page on Facebook. Developed and maintained by MDHE high school interns, *Journey to College* provides an avenue in which to obtain a variety of information geared toward future and current college students. If you're interested in planning and paying for college, receiving financial aid updates and learning more about financial literacy, "Like" *Journey to College* at www.facebook.com/journeytocollege.

If you prefer to tweet, the MDHE recently created a Twitter account to assist students just like you. Receive short updates regarding various scholarship opportunities, federal and state aid deadlines, and money management tips by following *Journey to College* at www.twitter.com/Journey2College need when you go to enroll in a Missouri college or university at end of high school.

Parents

- If you have a recent high school graduate about to head off to college, follow up to make sure they have completed all necessary paperwork.
- Encourage your student to stay active this summer and get involved in extra-curricular or community organizations. Such involvement can spruce up a college application when the time comes, and it may even help steer your son or daughter toward a future career interest.
- If your child is preparing for his or her senior year of high school, don't overlook all the mail from various colleges. Encourage them to look through the materials to evaluate which schools are best suited for their future plans. In addition, the MDHE's [Institution, Program, and Degree Search](#) allows you to search for Missouri schools based on school type, type of degree, type of program, and location.

MDHE Student Portal Now Available!

The MDHE has launched a new student portal that allows students to access information to help plan and pay for college. The portal offers two levels of access with a variety of information available on each.

- Students with basic access (Level 1) can:
 - Search for the institution, program, and or degree that is right for them;
 - Research information about state student financial aid programs that are available from the MDHE;
 - Access applications for the MDHE's state student financial aid programs that require a paper application; and
 - Link to a variety of state and federal resources.
- Students with upgraded access (Level 2) can access their personal information relating to the A+, Access Missouri, Bright Flight and Marguerite Ross Barnett programs. This includes the ability to:
 - View eligibility information;
 - Access their payment history;
 - Add a school choice (available January to August);
 - View application information;
 - View their letters and notices; and
 - Opt to receive emails with general and personalized information.

Portal Menu

- [Home](#)
- [My Account](#)
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- [Applications](#)
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- [Missouri Connections](#)
- [NSLDS](#)
- [MOHELA](#)
- [Additional Links](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Log Out](#)

Access

- Visit <https://web.dhe.mo.gov/dhe/famous/portal/splogin.faces> to sign in.
- A **Microsoft Live ID is required** to access the portal at either level. If you do not have one, you can obtain one when you sign in.
- You will be able to upgrade your access if the MDHE has a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), ACT and/or SAT record on file for you. (We receive these records for Missouri residents automatically from the U.S. Department of Education, ACT and the College Board through August each year.)
- Your Social Security number is required to upgrade your access so we can match you to your personal information. If you believe you have a FAFSA, ACT or SAT record on file with the MDHE but the portal is unable to confirm you, use the Contact Us feature or call us at (800) 473-6757, option 4 for assistance.
- **You must upgrade your access if you wish to add a school choice to your record.**